

In the Drawings:

Please amend the figures as shown in the attached amended drawing:

In FIG. 1, delete "50" and insert --51-- as shown.

In FIG. 2, delete "50" and insert --51-- and change the lead line of --16-- as shown.

In FIG. 3, delete "50" and insert --51-- as shown.

In FIG. 4, delete "50" and insert --51-- as shown.

In FIG. 5, delete "50" and insert --51-- as shown.

In FIG. 6, delete "48" and insert --18-- and add --51-- and add head of bolt --64-- as shown.

In FIG. 7 delete "50" and insert --51--.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1-3 and 9-15 so that they read as follows:

Sub B27
A1
D1
1. (Amended). A cantilever liftgate comprising: a unitary frame, the unitary frame comprising an opposing pair of side plates and an extension plate extending between the side plates; a hydraulically driven lift frame pivotally attached to the side plates; a liftgate platform rotatably attached to the lift frame; and means for securing the unitary frame to a vehicle body.

2. (Amended). The liftgate of claim 1, wherein the liftgate is fully assembled and detached from a vehicle for shipping or testing.

3. (Amended). The liftgate of claim 1, wherein the means for securing the unitary frame comprises a plurality of bolts for bolting the unitary frame to the vehicle body.

Sub B4
A3
D1
9. (Amended). The liftgate of claim 1, wherein the liftgate includes at least one upper stacking member and at least one lower stacking member, wherein the profile of the lower stacking member is configured to nest with the profile of the upper stacking member.

10. (Amended). A vehicle body assembly comprising a vehicle body and a cantilever liftgate secured to the vehicle body, the cantilever liftgate comprising: a unitary frame, the unitary frame comprising an opposing pair of side plates and an extension plate extending between the side plates; an actuator driven lift frame pivotally attached to the side plates; and a liftgate platform rotatably attached to the lift frame.

11. (Amended). The vehicle body assembly of claim 10 wherein the liftgate is

secured to the vehicle body by bolts.

21 B4 12. (Amended). The vehicle body assembly of claim 10 wherein the vehicle body assembly is detached from the vehicle.

A3 13. (Amended). The vehicle body assembly of claim 10 wherein the vehicle body comprises a truck bed and the unitary frame is mounted substantially below the floor of the truck bed.

14. (Amended). The vehicle body assembly of claim 13 wherein the extension plate is mounted in the plane formed by the truck bed to provide a bridge from the truck bed to the platform when the platform is horizontally extended in the plane of the truck bed.

sub B57 15. (Amended). A cantilever liftgate comprising:

(a) a unitary frame having an opposing pair of side plates, a trunnion tube extending between the side plates and an extension plate extending between the side plates, wherein the side plates are secured to the structure of the vehicle body;

(b) a lift frame having an opposing pair of parallelogram linkages each having upper arms and lower arms and proximal pivot members and distal pivot members and a lift frame tube extending between the lower arms, wherein the proximal pivot members are secured to the trunnion tube;

(c) a liftgate platform rotatably attached to the distal pivot members, having a stop configured to prevent rotation of the liftgate platform away from the upper and lower arms past a generally horizontal orientation parallel with the vehicle body and configured to allow rotation of the liftgate platform toward the upper and lower arms to a generally vertical position perpendicular with the vehicle body when in a lowered position; and

(d) an extendable actuator pivotally secured at one end to the trunnion tube and at the other end to the lift frame tube; wherein,

when the liftgate platform is rotated to the horizontal orientation extension of the actuator raises the liftgate platform from a lowered position to a raised position while maintaining the horizontal orientation and when the liftgate platform is rotated to the vertical position extension of the actuator raises and inverts the liftgate platform into a stowed position.

Please add the following new claims (16-24):

A4 B1 16. The liftgate of claim 15, wherein the side plates are secured to at least one sub-structure cross member of the vehicle body.

17. The liftgate of claim 15, wherein the extension plate is secured to at least one horizontal frame member of the vehicle body.

18. The liftgate of claim 15, wherein the side plates and the extension plate are secured to the vehicle body by bolts or welding.

19. The liftgate of claim 15, wherein the extendable actuator is a hydraulic cylinder.

20. A method for providing a cantilever liftgate comprising the following steps:

(a) providing a unitary frame comprising an opposing pair of side plates and an extension plate extending between the side plates;

(b) pivotally attaching a lift frame to the side plates;

(c) rotatably attaching a liftgate platform to the lift frame so that the platform is supported at one end only; and

(d) securing the unitary frame to a vehicle body.

21. The method of claim 20 further comprising the step of testing the operation of the liftgate prior to securing the unitary frame to the vehicle body.

22. The method of claim 20 further comprising, after steps (a), (b) and (c) have been completed, the step of shipping the liftgate to a customer.

23. The method of claim 20 further comprising, after steps (a), (b) and (c) have been completed, the step of stacking the liftgate on top of another liftgate.

24. The method of claim 23 further comprising the step of packaging and shipping the stacked liftgates together.

25. The method of claim 20, wherein the step of securing the unitary frame to a vehicle body is accomplished by bolting or welding the unitary frame to the base of a truck bed.